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LATE NEWS

The Tobacco Institute told the media that two recent American Cancer Society events--the Great American Smokeout and a national conference on smoking and health --are a waste of its tax-exempt funds.

TI called the Smokeout, designed to encourage Americans to quit smoking for 24 hours, "a great publicity tool for the Cancer Society as they move into their fund-raising season. But we think it's really a shame that they spend millions of dollars on this one-day media event when that money could be put toward scientific research to determine exactly how--and why--a normal, healthy cell becomes cancerous."

The conference in New York City featured many prominent anti-smokers gathered to develop a "blueprint" against tobacco. TI said it is disappointing that the ACS is diverting research funds to pay the expenses of "the same persons who have continuously pushed their prohibitionist view of tobacco smoking."

ACS tried to turn the conference into a media event, but there was virtually no coverage.

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